

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /051 W

-----080424Z 115176 /61/45

R 071829Z APR 77 CCY FOR GARBLED IN PARA 1

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7272

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA 1

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT IN FRG DROPS IN MARCH

REF: BONN 05994

SUMMARY: THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE FRG CONTINUED ITS MODEST IMPROVEMENT DURING MARCH. TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT DROPPED NEARLY 130,000 TO 1,084,200 FOR A RATE OF 4.8 PERCENT. ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS, UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINED BY 4,000 TO 988,000. END SUMMARY.

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1. AN OVERVIEW OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT PICTURE IN THE FRG FOLLOWS (ALL TOTALS IN THOUSANDS; ALL RATES IN PERCENTAGES):

UNEMPLOYMENT

COMPARISONS

MARCH 77 FEB. 77 MARCH 76

TOTAL RATE TOTAL RATE TOTAL RATE

SEAS.ADJ. 988 992 1,086
 NON-SEAS. 1,084.2 4.8 1,213.7 5.3 1,190.2 5.2
 ADJ.
 MEN 569.6 4.0 676.3 4.8 681.9 4.8
 WOMEN 514.7 6.1 537.5 6.3 508.3 6.0
 REG.JOB 244.1 224.5 239.9

OPENINGS

TABLE (CONT'D)

MARCH 77 FEB. 77 MARCH 76

TOTAL RATE TOTAL RATE TOTAL RATE

PART TIME 257.8 281.2 500.6
 WORKERS
 FOREIGN 102.8 5.1 107.7 5.3 135.6 6.5
 WORKERS
 YOUTH 99.3 109.8 4.9 112.1 5.0
 (UNDER 20)

2. THE DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED MAIN-
 LY TO SEASONAL FACTORS. UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE CON-
 STRUCTION INDUSTRY DROPPED OVER 37,000 FROM
 FEBRUARY LEVELS AND Milder SPRING WEATHER CUT THE
 NUMBER OF WORK DAYS LOST TO 1.3 MILLION, THE LOWEST
 MARCH TOTAL SINCE 1975.

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3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA SHOWED ONLY SLIGHT
 IMPROVEMENT, DOWN 4,000 FROM FEBRUARY. NEVERTHELESS,

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THE TOTAL OF 988,000 IS THE LOWEST FIGURE SINCE
FEBRUARY 1975 AND MARKS THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTHLY
IMPROVEMENT SINCE THE 1976/77 HIGH (1,012,000)
REGISTERED IN JANUARY 1977.

4. GEOGRAPHICALLY, UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUED TO BE
MOST SEVERE IN BAVARIA (5.8 PERCENT IN THE NORTH
AND 4.4 PERCENT IN THE SOUTH). BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG
AGAIN REGISTERED THE LOWEST RATE (2.9 PERCENT) AND
HESSEN CLAIMED THE NEXT LOWEST (4.2 PERCENT).

5. THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, GRUENEWALD, AND THE
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PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, STINGL,
HAVE DISAGREED ON WHAT SIGNIFICANCE COULD
BE DRAWN FROM THE NEW FIGURES. GRUENEWALD DECLARED
THAT THE NEW DATA DEMONSTRATED THAT GOVERNMENT
GOAL OF REDUCING AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT TO LESS THAN
4 PERCENT THIS YEAR WAS REALISTIC. STINGL
CLAIMED, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT "ONLY OPTIMISTS
WOULD STILL BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT PROJECTIONS OF
AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT GOING DOWN AS LOW AS 850,000
COULD BE MET." IRONICALLY, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE
SPD/FDP COALITION PARTIES AND THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION
AGREED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR GENERAL EVALUA-
TION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT DATA. BOTH VIEWED THE MARCH

UNEMPLOYMENT DATA AS PROVIDING NO GROUNDS FOR
ENTHUSIASM.
STOESSEL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
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TAGS: ELAB, GE
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